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## 4 dead in car, truck crash

**CRASH** Four people are dead after a trip on a notorious Northern Alberta highway proved fatal Sunday night.

The Fort McMurray residents were travelling south on Highway 63 near Wandering River around 10 p.m., when their Dodge Durango was allegedly T-boned by a semi.

Boyle RCMP responded to the scene of the crash and found all four occupants were killed instantly.

The deceased have been identified as Renato Huelgas, 47; Ralph Adriano, 49; April Buenaflor, 23; and Yvette Nones, 28.

The matter is still under investigation. Officers are considering a mechanical inspection on both vehicles involved, said Boyle RCMP Const. Karl Mandel.

VICTORIA HANDSIDES/  
METRO CANADA

Entertainment pg 16

## Calgary girl knows how to dance

Your Money pg 12



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Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion waves as he arrives at the St. Hubert airport near Montreal in this October file photo. Dion said yesterday he would step down as soon as a successor can be chosen and that this should be done by late January.

# Early exit for Dion

It ended with an e-mail.

After a weekend when even loyalists began musing publicly it was time for him to go, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion had his office issue a statement that reiterated his intention to resign as soon as his successor is chosen — but this time a whole lot earlier than before.

Liberal MP Martha Hall Findlay, a Dion supporter since she backed him at the 2006 Liberal leadership convention after her own name was dropped off the ballot, noted the roller coaster her colleague had been riding last week.

"I think this has been a very difficult time for Stéphane Dion," she said Friday. "I watched ... a man who spent 10 years demonized by the sepa-

**"He needs some time to be on his own."**

MP Bryon Wilfert

ratists in Quebec — completely vilified for 10 years because of all he had done to protect the unity of this country — I watched that man sitting beside me basically called a traitor by the prime minister."

Dion loyalist and Liberal MP Bryon Wilfert said he was giving his leader some space yesterday.

"He needs some time to be on his own," Wilfert said about an hour before Dion announced his decision.

There was no pomp and ceremony when he did.

The Dion who smiled wryly at the cameras — different from the tired one

seen in October when he first announced his intention to resign after navigating his party through a time of renewal — did not come out to face them this time.

There was just a statement telling everyone officially what was already known to be on its way.

Although he failed to create history on the scale he was hoping for, Dion did attempt to rewrite a small part of his own personal history by suggesting the kind of strong opposition that arose from a parliamentary crisis had been one of his reasons for staying on as long as he did.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE  
MORE COVERAGE PG 7



VIDEO What does Dion's departure mean for the Liberal party's future at metronews.ca/canada

## Brentwood split on proposal

NEIL MACKINNON  
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

**DEVELOPMENT** Some feel it will revitalize an area of Calgary in desperate need, others fear it will strip away a sense of community, beckoning crime with its density.

After seven public hearings, which garnered about 1,600 participants, Brentwood residents were given five minutes at the public hearing podium yesterday. If the plan is approved, it will guide the transit-oriented development of the community over the next 30 years, nearly doubling its population with two prominent highrises facing Crowchild Trail.

"Now is the time to look at building a more sustainable, cosmopolitan city," said 12-year Brentwood resident Filomena Gomes. "It's not a space I care about or care to preserve ... I believe we can do better."

Opinions seemed fairly split in Brentwood and its surrounding communities as 19 people spoke out in favour of the proposal and 15 against in the marathon session, which wrapped up after 9:30 p.m., with the matter being put off until today at 1 p.m.

Ron Franklin, like most who wanted council to shoot down the proposal, said he wasn't against the principle of transit-oriented development, it's just the scale of the project.

"The scale is so great that it will virtually overwhelm the surrounding communities," he said.



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**Paramedics rescue man from hole**

Paramedics were called to a construction site at the 400 block of 11 Ave. SE to help a man who had fallen into a hole about three metres deep. The patient suffered a back injury and was lifted out of the hole and sent to hospital in non-life-threatening condition. **METRO CALGARY**

# Local



## Leno returns to Alberta

The King of late night, Jay Leno, is returning to the River Cree Resort and Casino on Feb. 26. Tickets go on sale at all Ticketmaster locations on Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. for \$79, \$99 and \$125 plus GST and service charges.

**METRO CALGARY**

## House fire claims lives of two teens

**ROSEMARY** Two visiting Regina teenagers died in an Alberta house fire in a small community 160 kilometres southeast of Calgary this weekend.

Levi Smith and Paige Brady, both 17 years old, died when a fire started in Smith's father's Rosemary home Saturday morning.

RCMP said alcohol may have been a contributing factor but don't consider the fire suspicious.

## EnCana commits \$1M to research

**FUNDING** The University of Calgary and EnCana Corporation announced yesterday the creation of an EnCana chair in the Canadian Plains Mitigation and Reclamation.

The new position in the faculty of environment design at the school will investigate modern ways to limit the consequences of the energy industry on the western Canadian environment. EnCana has committed \$1 million to the research.

**METRO CALGARY**



Danette Rietze with her son Jacob, 8, dig out yesterday after Sunday's 16-centimetre snowfall. The city encourages Calgarians to lend a hand to those who may be unable to scrape away the heavy snowfall from sidewalks.

## Snow Angels behind those Calgary shovels

**NEIL MACKINNON**  
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

**Winter appears here to stay and through a random act of kindness, Calgarians can make life a little easier for their neighbours.**

In its six years of operation, Calgary's Snow Angels program, an anonymous snow-shovelling campaign, has handed out 2,500 pins of recognition to those who have been nominated by those they help, mainly seniors and people with health issues, said program co-ordinator Anna Ross.

"A lot of people just do it

**"A lot of people just do it and no one ever knows ... It really helps create a social, caring community."**

Anna Ross, Calgary Snow Angels

and no one ever knows," said Ross, noting about 85,500 seniors live alone in Calgary. "It really helps create a social, caring community."

It could also save someone a nifty bill, said Bylaw Services' Jim Golbourn.

He used the opportunity to remind residents that property owners or occupants who don't clear their sidewalk space to bare concrete will be given a 24-

hour notice to get to work or the city will do it, resulting in an average \$150 charge.

"There's really no excuse," said Golbourn. "If you aren't able to do it yourself, there are plenty of programs out there that can help."

Complaints over unkempt walkways rose by 1,481 calls last winter. Anyone seeking further information can call 311.

### News in brief

**SNOWFALL** A day after 200 cars crashed and Calgary EMS were forced into a red-alert situation, icy patches were all that remained on city roads after a 16-centimetre dump of snow on Sunday. The city's roads department had about 100 pieces of equipment making the rounds on city streets yesterday.

**CITY HOUSING** After a 55 per cent decline in new home starts in October, the city's housing sector had a slightly better month in November, only noting a 26 per cent drop since last year in the same month, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Video** What does Dion's departure mean for the Liberal party's future at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

**Read** An interview with Arianna Huffington, the 2008 Media Person of the Year, at [metronews.ca/world](http://metronews.ca/world)



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## 4 local

**Calgary International Airport gets new airline today**  
Mayor Dave Bronconnier and tourism industry reps will join the Calgary Airport Authority in making the announcement this morning. **METRO CALGARY**

### Calgary Zoo **Buffalo spirit**



Anthony Starlight from Buffalo Nations Cultural Society welcomes Blizzard, a rare white bison, to the Calgary Zoo from the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg. The three-year-old bison gets his light-coloured coat from a recessive gene that causes the hair follicles to have no dark pigment, or melanin. The birth of a white bison is of great spiritual significance in the First Nations' culture.

## Shelter past daytime capacity

KRISTA SYLVESTER  
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

**It's only the first few days of winter in Calgary and one homeless shelter is already seeing the signs of winter "social disorder," according to the centre.**

Louise Gallagher, spokesperson for the Calgary Drop-In Centre said the shelter is "very busy," but overcapaci-

ty actually occurs during the day.

"We're the only shelter open during the day during this kind of temperature, so our biggest challenge is housing people in the daytime," she said.

The dip in temperature and 15 cm of snow brought the shelter 1,300 clients overnight Sunday — only 50 above the centre's new capacity of 1,250. But there

were more during the day.

"There is a lot more despair," Gallagher said. "Our wish is that other shelters would open during the day, not just when it gets to minus-15."

The Mustard Seed has also seen high demand recently, but hasn't reached capacity levels yet because of new emergency beds the province opened, spokesperson Courtney Fliss said.

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Police dismantled an explosive device found in a north Edmonton Rona store yesterday afternoon. Police would not elaborate on the situation except to say that the public was never in danger and that a person of interest was in custody. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

# Canada




## 'Pompous egghead'

Tapes of a conversation between former U.S. president Richard Nixon and former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, left, have been released publicly. The two-hour talk about trade between Canada and America took place on Dec. 6, 1971, and led Nixon to call Trudeau a "pompous egghead" and a "clever son of a bitch." **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

### News in brief

**HEALTH** The province of Ontario needs to do a better job of ensuring the safety of meat products by following up on food-safety violations in slaughterhouses and meat-processing plants, says provincial Auditor General Jim McCarter. A number of abattoirs and free-standing meat processors were found to have "major and serious" deficiencies according to yesterday's report.

**ATTACK** A favourite noisemaker at hockey games was wielded as a weapon at a matchup in western Newfoundland, CBC News Online reports. RCMP said a man blew an air horn into an ear of a 13-year-old boy during a game at De Grau on the Port au Port Peninsula on Friday night. A 25-year-old has been charged with assault and assault with a weapon. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Quebec Premier Jean Charest casts his vote in his home riding in Sherbrooke, Que., yesterday. Charest's Liberals won their third straight mandate.

## Charest wins third mandate

Quebec Liberal leader Jean Charest managed a rare feat last night, becoming the first Quebec premier to win three consecutive mandates since Maurice Duplessis, against a much stronger showing for Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois than anyone expected.

Despite winning 65 of the 125 seats (at press time) and claiming a majority, questions will be asked as to why support for Charest's Liberals was more tepid than imagined, and whether Prime Minister Stephen Harper's aggressive denunciations of Quebec separatists last week contributed to the healthy sovereignist result.

The gains made by the Liberals and the Pauline Marois's PQ came at the expense of the ADQ, which was being pushed back to marginal status in the 125-seat National Assembly.

Major news organizations called the majority victory for Charest's Liberals barely a half hour after the polls closed last night. It was a remarkably different picture than that which emerged on election night 2007, when Charest nearly lost the premier's chair to the Action démocratique du Québec's Mario Dumont, and ended up leading a minority government.

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## Parliamentary crisis hits Google

As public interest in the workings of Parliament exploded alongside the political crisis in Ottawa last week, so too did the number of people turning to Google's search engine for an explanation of the commotion. Searches for the word prorogue increased by about 100 per cent by the beginning of December. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

## Provincial ministry for women needed, B.C. NDP says

KRISTEN THOMPSON  
Metro Canada



**VANCOUVER** A year to the day since Robert Pickton was convicted of murdering six women from the Downtown Eastside, little has changed for sex-trade workers, say some spokespeople for marginalized women.

Kate Gibson, with WISH, a drop-in centre for sex-trade workers in the area, said it's a misconception that violence against women there has subsided since Pickton's arrest.

Between 80 and 140 women seek refuge at WISH each night to escape violence or have somewhere safe to sleep.

"We have bad-date reports all the time," said

Gibson. But she said until people realize the immediate need for housing and act on that need, women will continue living dangerous lives to survive.

Claire Trevena, NDP critic for child care and women's

### Rally

• A rally in memory of Robert Pickton's victims is being held this afternoon in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

issues, added that these issues are compounded by the fact there's no provincial ministry for women in British Columbia.

"There's no central focus for women in this province and there hasn't been in the last eight years," she said.

"The question of prostitution ... is not one that any one ministry would solve," she said.

"But ... having one ministry would help focus and tackle (women's issues) more clearly."

### News in brief

**OTTAWA** The union for OC Transpo workers voted 98 per cent in favour of a strike last night after rejecting the latest offer from the municipal gov-

ernment in the nation's capital. Workers could walk off the job as early as tomorrow, effectively shutting the city's transit system. **METRO CANADA**

## Grit 'coronation' under fire

**Liberal Bob Rae is opposing what he calls the "coronation" of rival Michael Ignatieff, painting himself as the champion of democracy and calling for a party-wide vote to select the next Liberal leader.**

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion yesterday cleared the way for a fast-track leadership contest, pledging to step aside as soon as one is chosen.

That's expected tomorrow when Liberal MPs and senators meet behind closed doors to give their nod to Ignatieff.

But Rae is making it clear that he won't quietly end his leadership bid, despite mounting pressure to step aside and let Ignatieff take the crown unopposed.

"I don't think coronations are generally very successful in political parties ... Most people believe it's better to have a contest, it's better to have a choice," Rae told reporters in Toronto.

"What I'm proposing has a simple name — it's democracy," he said.

Rae said his office has been flooded with "thousands of calls and emails" from party members outraged at the suggestion that they might be frozen out of the selection of the next leader.

The party is wrestling



Bob Rae, left, is greeted by fellow Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy as he speaks yesterday in Toronto.

### "What I'm proposing has a simple name — it's democracy."

Liberal MP Bob Rae

with the unwelcome optics of selecting the leader behind closed doors, rather than letting thousands of party delegates make the choice at a leadership convention scheduled for May as was originally planned.

A proposal put forth over the weekend and backed by Rae was to hold a partywide vote by phone and online ballot in mid-January.

Under Liberal party rules,

when a leader announces his or her intention to resign, the national executive must appoint an interim leader in consultation with caucus. The Liberal caucus tomorrow will be asked to recommend Ignatieff, 61, as their choice of "interim" leader.

In a statement

issued last night, Ignatieff declared he had the support of 46 of 77 Liberal MPs.

Since only a delegated convention can select a permanent leader, Ignatieff's appointment would be ratified by acclamation at the May convention if Rae were to withdraw from the race. If Rae chooses not to withdraw, Ignatieff would have to fight for the job.

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China will team up with Russia to launch two satellite probes to take pictures of Mars and one of its small moons in October 2009 as it seeks to cement its place in the ranks of global space powers. A Chinese-built probe will piggy-back on a Russian-built rocket which will also carry a Russian satellite. **REUTERS**

**China, Russia to join forces for satellite probes**

# World



## Shopping rampage

A bull bought for the Muslim Eid al-Adha festival charged through a posh shopping mall in the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka yesterday, causing panic and damaging several shops. No one was hurt in the incident, which took place in the city's Gulshan diplomatic area. **REUTERS**

# Greek police brace for more turmoil

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The funeral today of a teenager shot dead by police was expected to provoke more riots in Greece following three days of the country's worst unrest in decades.

The 15-year-old boy's killing on Saturday night has fanned public anger at unpopular economic policies and scandals as the global financial crisis reaches Greece.

Thousands of protesters burned and looted shops in central Athens and tear gas choked Syntagma Square outside the Greek parliament as police clashed with left-wing demonstrators yesterday.

More than 50 people have been hurt and scores of shops, banks and cars damaged. Police arrested about 150 people.

The shooting victim, Alexandros Grigoropoulos, will be buried today. Police were bracing for more violence around the funeral and during a general strike



A protester throws a stone at riot policemen yesterday outside of the main administrative building of the University of Athens. Thousands of protesters rampaged through the heart of Athens yesterday on a third day of riots sparked by the killing of a teenager by police.

called for tomorrow.

The government denied reports it was planning to declare a state of emer-

gency but Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis was due to meet the president and party leaders to discuss the

crisis today.

Protests erupted in more than 10 cities across the nation. **REUTERS**

## Blackwater security guards charged in civilian deaths

**IRAQ** Five Blackwater security guards were charged yesterday with killing 14 unarmed civilians and wounding 20 others in a 2007 shooting in Baghdad that outraged Iraqis.

U.S. attorney Jeffrey Taylor said one of the victims was shot in the chest while standing with his hands up in the air while another victim was injured from a grenade fired into a nearby girls' school.

The U.S. Justice Department charged the men with 14 counts of

manslaughter, 20 counts of attempt to commit manslaughter and one weapons violation count.

A sixth Blackwater guard pleaded guilty to charges of voluntary manslaughter and attempt to commit manslaughter, the Justice Department said.

The shooting by the guards as they escorted a convoy of U.S. diplomats through Baghdad on Sept. 16, 2007, ignited a deep outcry in Iraq and led U.S. officials to tighten controls on guards. **REUTERS**

## Sept. 11 defendants ask to confess

**GUANTANAMO** The self-styled mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks and four co-defendants told a military judge yesterday they wanted to confess and plead guilty.

Barack Obama has said he will shut down the widely condemned Guan-

tanamo prison camp and try detainees in the regular U.S. civilian or military courts. Several defendants had said at previous hearings that they welcomed martyrdom, and they may have felt that opportunity slipping away with Obama's election. **REUTERS**

## News in brief

**SAUDI ARABIA** More than two million Muslim pilgrims stoned walls symbolizing the devil in a valley outside Mecca yesterday at the most dangerous stage of the hajj pilgrimage on the first

day of Eid al-Adha. The bridge in the valley has seen a number of deadly stampedes. This year, authorities made renovations to ease the flow of pilgrims. **REUTERS**

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**EU taking new measures to ban nuclear weapons**

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said the 27-nation European Union has proposed globally banning atom-bomb fuel. **REUTERS**

world 9

# Women demand more say in UN climate talks

**United Nations climate change talks should do more to incorporate women's concerns into negotiations on a new global pact, environmental and women's groups said yesterday.**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said poor women in developing countries would be affected most by climate change because of its impact on agriculture, food security and water management — traditionally women's tasks.

It also said they are more likely to be killed in disasters caused by extreme weather — girls in some

cultures do not learn how to swim or climb trees. Despite this, most of the debate on climate change at U.N. talks has been "gender-blind," it said.

"As women, we look for water and firewood — we understand the environment better," said Rejoice Mabudafhasi, South Africa's deputy minister for environment and tourism.

"And as women, we believe gender issues must be incorporated in all decision-making on climate change," she said.

GenderCC, an international network of non-governmental organizations, called on governments at

**"As women, we believe gender issues must be incorporated in all decision-making on climate change."**

Rejoice Mabudafhasi, S. African politician

the Dec. 1 to 12 talks in Poland.

The group asked the U.N. to adopt a resolution on gender justice and set up a group that could make formal inputs into the negotiations.

**REUTERS**

## U.S. to build seventh Mexico border crossing to ease traveller wait times

**TRADE** The United States aims to build a seventh border crossing between California and Mexico by 2014 to ease chronic congestion and boost trade, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said yesterday.

Schwarzenegger said the

U.S. State Department had granted a permit to build a toll crossing between Otay Mesa, California, and Tijuana in Mexico at a cost of \$715 million US. The new crossing, called Otay Mesa II, will offer alternative crossing facilities for a fee.

**REUTERS**

### News in brief

**CRIME** A New York City police officer is expected to be charged with beating and sodomizing a man with a police baton on a subway platform. A lawyer for the accused, Richard Kern, 25, who is accused of being the leader in the assault, said his client has been ordered to surrender to police today.

**REUTERS**



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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Iggy offers less fodder for Tory attacks

## NationalReport



Lawrence Martin

So much for the Liberal leadership race. For all intents and purposes, it's over. The nightmare before Christmas — the political pandemonium of the last two weeks — has touched off a rush to anoint Michael Ignatieff as the new man.

Anointed he likely will be. The third candidate, Dominic LeBlanc, has exited the race and is throwing his support behind Iggy. A bandwagon effect is in course. The date of the con-

vention, if there is one, will be being moved to January, meaning that Bob Rae, who needed time to stage a fight, won't have it. Without it, he is finished. His fundamental problem was that his baggage from his days as Ontario premier, 16 years ago, would not go away. Sometimes we forgive. Sometimes we don't. In his case, we didn't.

The installation of Mr. Ignatieff means that the luck of the Conservatives, who have feasted on Dion tenderloin for two years, is likely over.

Sir Michael has his own encumbrances. He is patrician, to the manor born, lacking in the common touch. He is inexperienced, having only been in politics for three years and he signed on, reluctantly, to

**The installation of Mr. Ignatieff means that the luck of the Conservatives, who have feasted on Dion tenderloin for two years, is likely over.**

the coalition deal. On the plus side, he is intellectually radiant and an effective communicator with a presence that is commanding. He knows that the most important thing in politics is messaging. Stephen Harper illustrated this last week when, in the space of a couple of days, he brilliantly changed the national discussion from his pathetic economic statement to national unity.

The Conservatives will berate Mr. Ignatieff as an egghead and beat him up for signing the coalition pact. But his being new to politics means the fire-breathing Harper will have less ammunition on which to base cheap attack ads. While Bob Rae has many of the Iggy qualities and is much more seasoned, the Harper team would have unlimited gunpowder with him as Liberal leader.

Mr. Ignatieff is also situated more in the centre of the political spectrum and will end, for better or for worse, the leftward drift of the party. He will be in a strong position to rebuild the party in Quebec now that the prime minister has alienated so many in La Belle Province with his demonization of the Bloc Québécois.

With his impressive standing in the polls, Mr. Harper is probably tempted himself to push for an election. The public, caught up in politics to a degree seldom seen, might not be opposed to going to the polls again.

But with Mr. Dion stepping down, the chemistry changes. A new Liberal leader cannot probably

help but move his party's numbers upward.

Mr. Ignatieff will move cautiously, easing off on any coalition commitment. A mighty chess match will ensue between him, a nobleman, and the prime minister, a Doberman.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

## Views

# How the opposition helped propel Stephen Harper in polls



Ezra Levant

The proposed Liberal-NDP-Bloc coalition government is as good as dead — gone as quickly as it was formed.

Just days after it was announced, Liberal MPs started distancing themselves from it. Then Stéphane Dion bungled a taped speech for

national TV. And then the Governor General granted Stephen Harper a breather by proroguing Parliament.

But the real nails in the coffin are polls showing Canadians deeply oppose the coalition. The scheme has backfired, and Harper has skyrocketed to his highest level of support yet. How could the opposition have miscalculated so badly?

Three reasons. Firstly, personal animosity towards Harper blinded the opposi-

tion. The opposition thought Canadians shared their hate for Harper — so much so they'd accept any trick to kick him out of office.

The second mistake was the opposition listened to the media, which tends to be liberal. The media's first reaction to the coalition was excitement and support. But that elite opinion was formed in part by their hostility to Harper.

But the biggest reason is the inclusion of the Bloc.

Simply put, Canadians are scared of them, and don't want separatists having a veto over our government.

Signing a contract with Quebec separatists isn't normal in the eyes of Canadians — no matter what Harper-hating opposition MPs or their sympathetic media friends say.

Ezra Levant is a lawyer, author and free-speech activist who blogs at [www.ezralevant.com](http://www.ezralevant.com). He volunteered in the Conservative war-room during the last election.



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**Royal Bank to offer \$2.3B in stock**

Royal Bank said yesterday it plans to issue up to \$2.3 billion in common shares to bolster its regulatory capital ratio, in what would be the second-largest stock sale by a Canadian bank this year. Royal Bank said that it would issue 56.75 million common shares at \$35.25 a share. The offering is expected to close on Dec. 22. **REUTERS**

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# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## TSX rides oil to higher close

**Toronto's main stock index closed at its highest level in more than a week yesterday in a broad-based rally supported by a rebound in oil prices and optimism that stimulus measures around the globe would help avert a deeper slide in the economy.**

The resource-heavy index, coming off a 12 per cent skid last week, surged

### EnCana, Suncor rally

- Shares of EnCana Corp. shot 9.34 per cent higher to \$55.61 and were the biggest

at the open and hung on to the bulk of its gains as the price of oil bounced off of the four-year low set last week.

The Toronto Stock Exchange's S&P/TSX compos-

ite index closed 450.09 points, or 5.55 per cent, higher, at 8,567.12, with all of its 10 main sectors up.

Adding to the rally's momentum was a pledge by

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama to invest in a massive infrastructure plan to help bolster the anemic U.S. economy.

Stock markets around the world rebounded yesterday, helped by several governments reinforcing their plans for countering the economic crisis, while higher oil prices gave an added boost.

**REUTERS**

## BCE gets positive second accounting opinion

**TELECOM** BCE Inc., the Canadian telecom giant whose \$34.8-billion buyout appears close to collapse, has received a second accounting opinion that found it would be solvent after the deal is done, a source familiar with the situation said yesterday.

The source said BCE retained PricewaterhouseCoopers to provide a second solvency opinion. The move comes after BCE announced in late November that KPMG, its accountants, had found the company would fail such a solvency test because of the

huge debt load related to the deal.

In a statement, BCE denied PwC was engaged to provide a solvency opinion. Rather, BCE said, PwC would "perform valuation work in connection with the company's submissions to KPMG."

**REUTERS**

### In brief

**FORECAST** Insurance credit-rating agency A.M. Best Co. said yesterday that it believes "unprecedented negative financial conditions" will pose difficulties for Canadian life insurers well into 2009. Although the outlook is currently stable, the rating agency said that this could change if the economy deteriorates.

**REUTERS**

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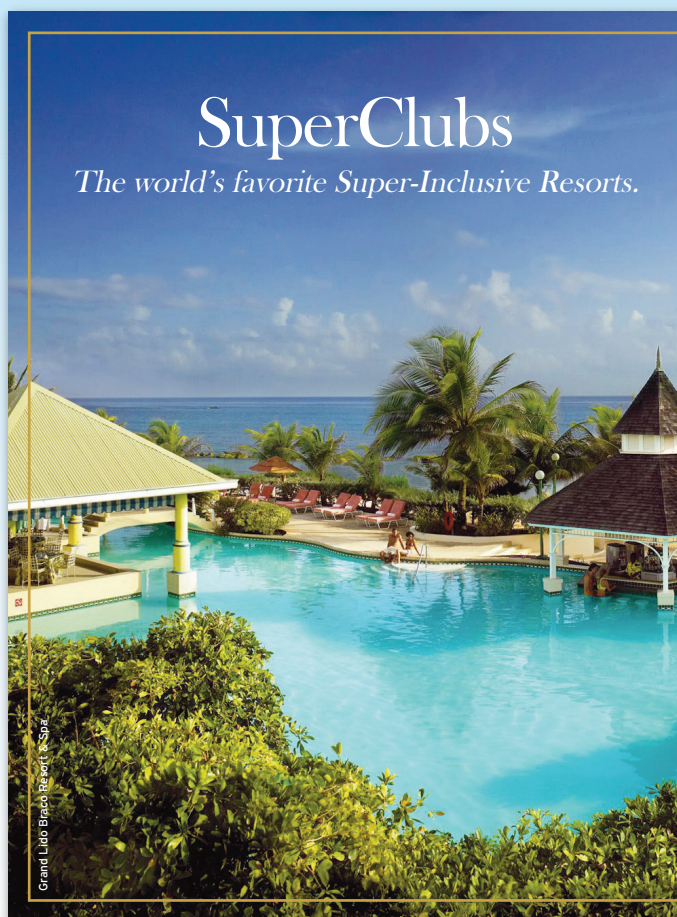
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## Plant those tax seeds now

**Q** I am self-employed and have always ran a successful business. Can you offer any tax advice before the end of this dismal year?

Paul

**A** As the holidays get closer, most Canadians are gearing up for shopping, vacations and festivities — not tax planning. However, a little time spent now may translate to substantial savings in the New Year.

- Consider paying families members that work in the business. They may be taxed at a lower marginal tax rate.

- Purchase assets for use in business before fiscal year-end. Although, you cannot deduct entire amount, CCA is available.

- Keep a close watch on your credit. Banks are reducing and, in some instances, retiring loans.

- Sell stocks with losses

## MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

that you can apply to reduce realized capital gains in current year or past three years. Check with your broker.

- Pay yourself first. RRSP contributions not made by Dec. 31, 2008, can be made on or before March 2, 2009, for deduction in 2008.

- Donate to charitable organization before Dec. 31st. If you donate stocks that have appreciated in past several years you pay may zero tax on capital gains and get a donation credit for contributions.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, provides professional accounting and taxation solutions: choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

# Big gifts with small prices

## SmartCookies



smartcookies.com

With gift giving in full swing, we thought we'd share our favourite gift ideas for the fabulous people on your list this year.

### Sandra's Pick

Give the gift of experience and the opportunity to save big by giving the 2009 Entertainment book. For less than \$50, the book is a collection of vouchers redeemable at both local & national businesses. Savings are available for a variety of sectors, including movies, restaurants, sporting events, travel, gasoline, and more!

For an added touch of thoughtfulness, flip through the book before wrapping and tag a few

places you know the gift recipient would love to go. Check out *entertainment.com* to learn more.

### Angela's Pick

For the fashionable and simply fabulous friend on your list, check out Cheeky Umbrella. Not only is each umbrella stylish and sturdy but each comes with a sassy statement scrolled along the underside ("When does it start raining men?" and "It's raining, it's pouring, other umbrellas are boring").

This gift is the perfect accessory to the rainy day wardrobe and sure to brighten even the darkest of days. Check it out at *cheekyumbrella.com*.

### Katie's Pick

What better way to give a gift of all the memories you have shared than a photo album. Now you can digitally create your own photo book complete with a hard cover and sleeve. Apple and *Snapfish.com* offer fabulous products that allow you to drag and drop your photos into a work of art. An al-

bum can be completed within minutes and shipping can take as little as five business days. Photo books generally start around \$20 depending on the format and number of pages you include.

### Andrea's Pick

Nothing is more thoughtful (and as easy on your wallet) than something homemade. So this holiday season, why not grab some girlfriends and spend an evening drinking wine and baking up your own specialty dessert? Take four or five pieces of your homemade deliciousness, wrap it with some clear or coloured cellophane paper (\$1 at your local dollar store), tie it off with some ribbon and voila — you have a gift for only \$3 per bag. For Andrea's favourite fudge recipe, try googling "food network" and "old time chocolate fudge".

### Robyn's Pick

Of course you could check out *smartcookies.com* for ideas (we wouldn't be Smart Cookies

if we didn't mention it). For just \$5 a month, or \$50 a year, you can get a premium subscription for your friend, your daughter, your wife or another other. Members will be able to download resources, create a spending plan, receive e-mail reminders regarding their financial and life goals, along with a free credit report, notices of special Smart Cookie offers and much much more.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Smart Cookies email us at *smartcookies@metronews.ca*.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit *smartcookies.com* for more tips.

## Investing

Allan Small



The week's column looks at job losses and the restructuring of companies. Visit *metronews.ca*



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**Avery's future with Stars in doubt**

Sean Avery's fate with the Dallas Stars could be decided by tomorrow. The team's brass will meet tomorrow afternoon to discuss the Avery situation in depth. Avery is currently serving a six-game suspension for making a crude remark last week. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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# Sports



## Klassen won't race this season

Canadian speedskater Cindy Klassen, left, put the brakes on her return from knee surgery and has decided not to race this season. The winner of six Olympic medals wants time for her knees to heal before she steps to the start line again. The 29-year old Winnipeg native hasn't put her skates back on since arthroscopic surgery in July. Klassen says her priority remains the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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## Toews says so long to soph slump

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**Jonathan Toews had heard of sophomore slumps, but the Chicago Blackhawks forward didn't believe in them.**

So, when he started the year with no goals and just seven assists in his first 12 games, he didn't fret, even though he carried the weight of a franchise on his shoulders after being named one of the youngest captains in NHL history in July.

Instead, the Winnipeg native righted the ship. After scoring his first goal Nov. 9, Toews has been flying high, with eight goals and seven assists in his past 13 games. He was named the NHL's second star of the week yesterday. "I think (after your rookie year), reality sets in

where you're not in dreamland anymore," Toews said. "You've got to earn every point and every chance offensively, and every little thing that you do, you've got to work harder for it. It's great to finally get through that."

The 6-foot-2, 203-pounder's turnaround — along with lights-out play of fellow super-sophomore Patrick Kane — has Chicago suddenly looking like a playoff team, something it hasn't been since the days of Tony Amonte in 2002.

The

Blackhawks actually struggled out of the gate, going 1-2-2, but fired head coach Denis Savard Oct. 16 and replaced him with Joel Quenneville. That signalled a turnaround for a young, skilled team that needed to be reined in.

The Blackhawks are 12-6-7, tied for sixth in the Western Conference.

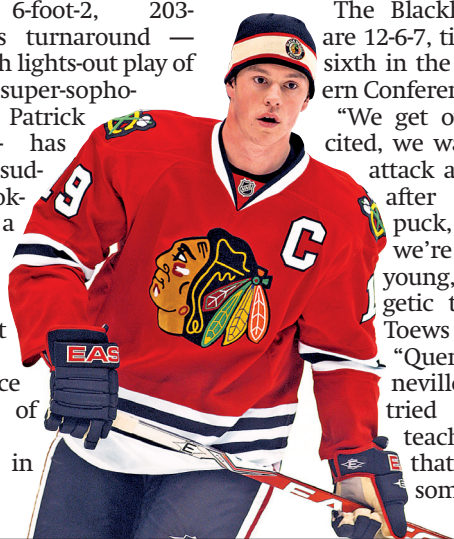
"We get overexcited, we want to attack and go after the puck, and we're a young, energetic team," Toews said. "Quenneville has tried to teach us that sometimes

it's better just to sit back, relax and let the other team make mistakes."

Toews is battling a nasty cold this week, something he'll want to kick in the next few weeks. The Blackhawks will play an outdoor game — the Winter Classic — against the Detroit Red Wings on New Year's Day at Wrigley Field.

Toews watched last year's Winter Classic, played between the Pittsburgh Penguins and Buffalo Sabres before an NHL-record crowd of 71,217 at Ralph Wilson Stadium. Wrigley Field is expected to seat 41,000.

"There won't be 70,000 people at our game, but I think the energy's going to be similar," Toews said. "That whole kind of big-show atmosphere is going to be pretty cool to be a part of, and we're all looking forward to that."



## Toronto's NFL Sunday doesn't live up to hype

**It was a rough weekend for Buffalo Bills fans.**

Former great O.J. Simpson was sent to jail after being convicted on kidnapping and robbery charges and on Sunday, the Bills crossed the border to Toronto to play the first NFL regular-season game in Canada.

But if the Bills' tepid 16-3 loss to the Miami Dolphins was the first step in the franchise's relocation, it was an unsteady one as the NFL failed to receive the warm embrace it expected from the Great White North.

Hyped and promoted for nearly a year and played in the climate-controlled comfort of the Rogers Centre, the landmark game failed to generate the type of unbridled

enthusiasm expected by a city eager to have an NFL team to call its own.

While the contest was listed as a Bills home game, few fans from Western New York made the two-hour trip to support their team, which will play eight games (five regular season and three exhibition) in Toronto over five years.

Struggling for survival in one of NFL's smallest markets, the Bills will pocket \$78 million US from the deal, almost double what they would take in from the same number of games at their home ground in Or-

chard Park, N.Y.

Bills owner Ralph Wilson insists it is just the type of financial lifeline the team needs if it hopes to remain in Buffalo.

But fans continue to fret that their beloved Bills are simply laying the groundwork

to do what so many other hard-hit businesses have done — leave town.

"I'm going to do whatever I can for the future to make sure the Buffalo Bills stay in western New York," said former Bills quarterback Jim Kelly.

"Nothing against the people in Toronto, I definitely

think they could support a franchise, but just don't make it the Buffalo Bills."

But as Buffalo watches its population decline and unemployment rise, just 100 miles away lies Toronto, North America's fifth largest sports market and Canada's financial hub.

While cosmopolitan Toronto has long coveted an NFL franchise to stand alongside its NHL, NBA and MLB teams, the city's once unbridled infatuation with American gridiron has cooled. The crowd of 52,134 for Sunday's game was declared a sellout by promoters, but there were swathes of empty seats and tickets could be bought on game day.

REUTERS

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# Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

## Breast tissue regrowth

Self-renewing cells are crucial in clues to cancer prevention

CELIA MILNE  
for Metro Canada

**Scientists in Vancouver have been able to regrow a complete mammary gland using breast stem cells.**

This is an important development as the world inches closer to stopping breast cancer before it takes hold.

A team from the B.C. Cancer Agency used healthy breast tissue leftover from breast reduction surgery. They isolated the stem cells — the cells that are best at self-renewing. They then inserted these human stem cells into a special type of mouse developed for this purpose. “The cells grow.

They make mini human mammary glands,” said Dr. Connie Eaves, director of the B.C. Cancer Agency’s Terry Fox Laboratory, and a senior author of the team’s study.

Previously, scientists had been able to regrow mouse mammary glands from stem cells, but not human ones, so this is an exciting breakthrough, explained Dr. Eaves. The team’s paper was published at the end of November in the medical journal *Nature Medicine*.

Investigators around the world believe that the stem cells are the culprits in breast cancer. Understanding the fundamental mechanisms of stem cells takes scientists one step closer to figuring out how breast can-

**“Studying the cells will help us understand them and that will lead to better treatments.”**

Dr. Connie Eaves, director of the B.C. Cancer Agency’s Terry Fox Laboratory

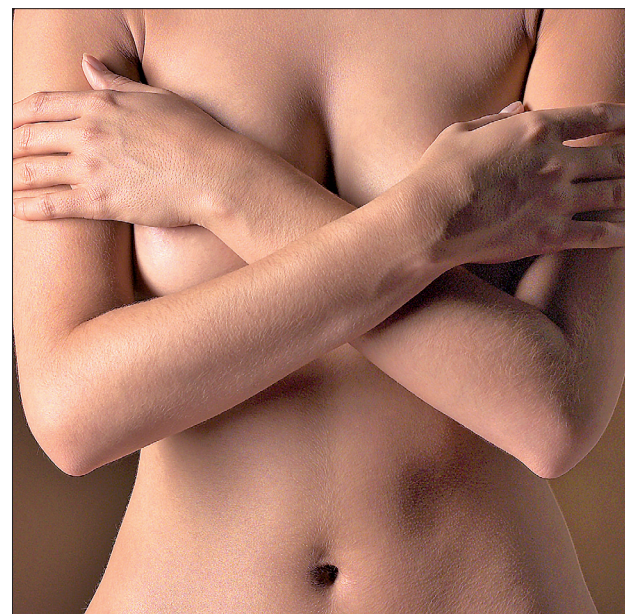
cer starts. “It is important to understand that cell — what makes it grow,” said Dr. Eaves. Now researchers can zero in on what goes wrong at the cellular level in cases of breast cancer.

It may take at least a decade to design drugs that target those faulty stem cells, but progress is being made. “Studying the cells will help us understand them and that will lead to better treatments,” added Dr. Eaves. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in

Canadian women, with more than 22,000 new cases each year.

Said co-author Dr. Samuel Aparicio of the B.C. Cancer Agency: “The long-term aim is to figure out what makes normal breast stem cells tick and then use this information to see what may be high-jacked or distorted when these cells become malignant.”

Two years ago, researchers at Harvard speculated that one day it would be possible to inject healthy breast stem cells into women who have undergone breast cancer surgery, with the hope of growing new breasts without the cancer cells.



B.C. scientists discovered they could regrow a mammary gland using breast stem cells — the cells that are best at regenerating.

One of the challenges of the new Vancouver study was to find a way to get human cells to grow in mice without the mice rejecting them. The team used special mice whose immune systems had been turned off, but whose blood supply would nourish the human cells and help them grow. The human stem cells were suspended in a gelatin disc

and then the disc was slipped under the capsule that surrounds the kidneys of the mice. Lo and behold: Fed by the blood supply of the mice, the transplanted human stem cells were able to regrow a complete, miniature, milk-producing mammary gland, proving that the normal female breast contains cells that can regenerate.

## Teens need sound sex education

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey

Controversy over a British plan to offer contraceptive injections to teenage girls as young as 13 has the usual knickers in a twist. Critics are concerned the plan will promote underage sex and help spread sexually transmitted diseases.

It’s the same argument that gets hauled out against sex education. As if young people never think about sex until an adult comes along, rips open a condom in front of them and shows them how to use it.

The truth is, in today’s sexually-saturated culture, kids are exposed to more information about sex than ever before and sound, comprehensive sex education starting at a young age is crucial.

Besides, it seems to be working. Despite popular

belief, in recent years, teenage pregnancy rates have fallen and the age of first sex has risen in both the U.S. and Canada. Even in England, teen pregnancies are down overall, except in high-risk,

usually low-income areas that are being targeted for this program.

And even in these areas, sexual health care workers admit the vast majority of 13-year-olds are not sexually active and most of the teenage pregnancies they see happen at age 16 or 17.

Also, it’s not like they’re running around, capturing 13-year-olds and forcefully injecting them with Depo-Provera, the contraceptive being used for the program that prevents pregnancy for three months at a time. The injections are being offered by trained professionals that talk to these girls about why they are having sex and explain the risks of sexually transmitted infections.

Rather than panicking that we’re encouraging girls as young as 13 to have sex by offering them contraception, isn’t it better to admit that some are having sex and offer them education and options to ward off the consequences (that is, becoming a poor single, teenage mom)?

Providing comprehensive sex education and making contraception choices available to teens does not encourage promiscuity or the spread of STDs any more than urging people to wear seatbelts encourages risky driving and causes more accidents.

If anything, it makes you more aware that the activity you are engaging in has serious consequences and that you can make individual choices to protect yourself against those consequences.

And nobody is ever too young to learn that.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit [joseyvogels.com](http://joseyvogels.com).

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**Twilight director snubbed**

Twilight director Catherine Hardwicke has reportedly been turned down as director of the smash hit vampire film's sequel New Moon, despite vocalizing her desire to be involved with the project. [IMDB.COM](http://IMDB.COM)

**15**

# Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, [TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA](mailto:TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA)

## This guy can dance

RICK MCGINNIS  
Metro Canada



After 13 weeks moving slowly toward centre stage on the biggest TV show in Canada, Montreal's Nico Archambault became the first winner of the homegrown version of *So You Think You Can Dance*, though talking to him a day after his win, he admits he was sure he was going home weeks ago.

"I never felt safe," he tells me. "You can get a lot of praise and then if you mess up the next week you're done. I have to say after my waltz I thought I was going to leave. The standard ballroom is hard. For a start, it's not really entertaining, and it looks easy, but it's not. People say 'why did you mess it up, it looks so easy.'"

With a background in hip



Nico Archambault, winner of the first season of *So You Think You Can Dance* Canada.

hop and contemporary, he says that he felt like he had the basics to take on the show's weekly challenges, but that his first big test came right after he made it into the top 10. "The first week I picked salsa, which is totally new to me, and I'm partnering the Cuban girl (Arrasay Reyes)," he recalls. "But she was really good,

and she was patient and really helped me."

Looking back, the standard ballroom dances were his biggest challenge, coming from a place utterly different from his training and taste, but he answers immediately when I ask him about what scared him the most. "It's gotta be the quickstep," he says. "I would

never have done that. I wouldn't want to do it — honestly, from an outside point of view, and me coming from a contemporary and hip-hop background, I like everything that is twisted, quirky, dirty, weird. I like that. This is me.

"To me all the standard ballroom looked boring — I have to say it. But the show forces you to step into it, to embrace it, because you're going to be onstage performing it after five hours of rehearsal, so you'd better get into it. And by doing it I realized how hard it is — it's not natural for a body to look like that, and to move with another body."

His next gig is the cross-Canada tour for the show, but he admits that his schedule gets a lot more vague after that. "I don't know, and I like it. I'm really excited to see what's going to happen."



### New Order

Actor Jamie Bamber has returned to his native Britain to star in the latest *Law & Order* spinoff. Bamber will front *Law & Order: London*, the popular detective series' first international show. [IMDB.COM](http://IMDB.COM)

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# 'Little mouse' roars into runner-up spot

Calgary's Bertram defies expectations on dance competition

RICK MCGINNIS  
Metro Canada



RICK MCGINNIS/METRO CANADA

Classically-trained dancer Allie Bertram was named the runner-up of So You Think You Can Dance Canada.

From her first moment on-stage, Calgary's Allie Bertram had a singular role in the cast of dancers dancing together and in competition for the winner's circle in So You Think You Can Dance Canada.

Petite and sweet-tempered, the 18-year-old became judge Luther Brown's "little mouse," and her classical training was actually considered a liability.

After all, a ballerina had never made it into the show's final 10, never mind runner-up to Nico Archambault at the show's finale. "I was comfortable with it," she says, looking back. "That's who I am, and that's truly who I came into this competition as, and I thought it was great that he was talking about me as his little ballerina, as I was doing these Latin dances or these hip hop dances. I'm true to myself, but I'm adapting myself to these different styles."

She admits that she had to escape a lot of habits

drilled into her after years of training. "I think it was letting go. I'm used to standing upright. Especially during our first hip hop with Danny (Arbour) it was so hard for me to get out of character and be mean or tough. But by the time I did my second hip hop I was so ready. You have to learn how to be different characters — in ballet you're always pretty, whereas in this you have to change your mindset."

"I have the technical training, but I have the mindset that you have to jump into it and try new things. Not that I think ballerinas don't have that, but you get so set in your style. Anyone who's willing to do the show has to forget about what they do best

and adapt to anything."

She says that right now, she's anxious for the show's tour to begin, and gives a glimpse of the camaraderie that defines the show's appeal. "Honestly I can't wait — to get back together with the top 10, I'm going to be so excited. I've never been on tour before, especially across Canada. Especially in these past four weeks, I've been roommates with Natalli (Reznik), and I've learned so much from her, just living with her and hearing her experiences. I can't wait to sit down and get some time with the other dancers."



For this week's DVD reviews, please visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca).

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Do it daily.



Bear Grylls recovering after fall

Man Vs. Wild star Bear Grylls is recovering in a U.K. hospital after fracturing his shoulder in a fall while on an expedition across Antarctica. [IMDB.COM](#)

Writer Ellis tackles polygamy

**NEW GIG** Kirk Ellis, the Emmy-winning scribe of the HBO miniseries John Adams, has been hired to write Escape, starring Katherine Heigl.

The independently financed project tells the true story of Carolyn Jessop, who after years of being in a forced polygamous marriage escaped from the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints with her eight children. Ellis will adapt Jessop's book.

Ellis's credits also include the TNT miniseries Into the West and ABC's Anne Frank: The Whole Story.

REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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Backstabbing in boardrooms

IntelleVision



**THE NETWORK THAT WENT CRAZY:** I'm not sure how much readers care about the Rome-at-empire's-end court politics at the number 4 U.S. network; I have to write about TV five days a week, so it's probably no surprise that this sort of flailing folly of backstabbing and corporate intrigue fascinated me.

Perhaps it's a sort of emotional Stockholm Syndrome, which has left me in thrall to the beat that holds me captive, but the success of shows like Entourage tells me that I might not be alone.

My source, as usual, is Nikki Finke of L.A. Weekly, whose fascination with Ben Silverman's tenure as co-chairman of NBC Entertainment and television makes mine seem restrained. Following up on her earlier predictions of heads rolling in time for the holidays, she managed

to pre-empt Silverman's own attempt to hide the firing of three senior programming executives in the hurly-burly of holiday news.

"The network/studio hoped to then spin this as part of cost-cutting rather than more evidence of failure," writes Finke. "But I messed up their plans. My bad."

The basic news is that NBC management has shifted the blame for their underperforming season on two women and one man — the executive vice-president of NBC Entertainment, the president of Universal Studio Media and the head of reality programming, respectively.

Katherine Pope had wanted to leave the network for a year, ever since half of her job at Universal Studio Media was given away, and Teri Weinberg, who was brought to the company by Silverman, has been marked for death ever since the network had to give a sweetheart kiss-off deal to a group of writer/producers, one of whom was Weinberg's boyfriend.

Craig Plestis, the man in

charge of NBC's reality programs, was let go because, well, do I need to utter the dreaded words Baby Browsers aloud?

When things are as bad as they've become for NBC, rational explanations no longer hold sway — Pope was apparently more than competent at what she did (she had ameliorated Law & Order creator Dick Wolf's frayed relationship with the network), but Silverman apparently hated her, while Silverman's bulletproof status can be explained as a simple by-product of General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt's fondness for his favorite executive party boy.

For his part, Silverman is bringing in Paul Telegdy from the BBC to take Plestis's job so that Silverman will feel like he has "another dude" and "more friends" around him, according to Finke. This is proof, were it needed, that high school never really ends, just summer vacation.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/9/08	267	351	- ACCESS	Arts & Minds	Arts & Minds	Eli Stone "Help!" (N)	Funniest Home Videos	Fringe (HDTV)	Arts & Minds		
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	Shrek *** (2001, Comedy)	Voices of Mike Myers.	Law & Order: SVU	News (N)		
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News	News.	Broadcast News					
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Funniest Home Videos	According-Jim	According-Jim	Eli Stone
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Legend of Frosty	The Tudors (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "About Face"	House (HDTV) (N)	(10:01) Kitchen Nightmares	News Hour		
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		According-Jim	Privileged (HDTV)	Hates Chris	Friends	Your City	
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	La Fature	Têtes à claques	Filantes	Filantes	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)	TJ Alberta	
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming					Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	Avista Special	Extra (N)	NCIS "About Face"	The Mentalist (HDTV)	Without Trace	
primetime	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Nova (DVS)	Wild! (DVS)	CBC News: The National	Frontline (DVS)	Independent	
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Capturing a Short Life	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	Capturing	
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	The Biggest Loser: Families (N)		Law/Ord SVU	
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV) (N)	(10:01) Fringe (HDTV)	News (N)	
	297	652	37 WPIX	Privileged (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten (N)	Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim
	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		Showbiz Tonight	Larry King Live	Cooper 360	
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace			Lou Dobbs Tonight	Nancy Grace	
	400	400	21 TSN	Basketball	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	SportsCentre	In This Corner	UEFA Champions League Soccer		
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	410	403	30 SCORE	(5:30) Court Surfing		Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
news	411	457	44 OLN	Angry Planet	Word Travels	Which Way to... "Luxor"	Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport	Survivorman	
	417	406	48 SPEED	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Unique Whips	Hot Import	Pinks	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!
	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Fresh Prince	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek
	555	545	67 TOON	Stardust		Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad
	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Best Years (DVS)		The Biggest Loser: Families (N)		News (N)	
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One					
	602	568	23 W	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	How to Look Good Naked	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Good Naked
sports	521	560	24 TLC	Mystery Diagnosis		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		My Shocking Story	Mystery Diagnosis		Med. Examiner
	603	561	25 FOOD	The F Word		Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover	Challenge		The F Word
	615	520	26 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Vivienne Vyle	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)	Testees	Trailer Park	House
	601	562	33 SLICE	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Tori & Dean: Home		ET Canada	Matchmaker		Trading Sp
	-	633	34 ENC2	(7:10) The Cowboy Way ** (1994, Comedy)				City Slickers *** (1991, Comedy)	Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern.		Blazing
	520	505	35 DISC	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs		Daily Planet	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Barenaked for the Holidays		Christmas at the Concert Hall		Law & Order	Without a Trace		Christmas
	294	650	40 WPCB	(6) Blood Work ** (2002, Suspense)			Seinfeld	Family Guy	Blood Work ** (2002, Suspense)		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman
family	-	539	42 TCM	Angel Wore Rd	(7:45) Jack of Diamonds ** (1967, Suspense)			(9:45) White Comanche ** (1967, Western)			
	628	584	43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		MANswers (N)	MANswers	CSI: NY (HDTV)	Trek: Voyager
	522	516	45 HIST	Outlaw Bikers		NCIS "Silver War"		Outlaw Bikers	Ax Men		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica		Rabbit Fall (N)	The Circuit	Stargate SG-1	Lost		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(5) The Karate Kid		Samuel L. Jackson: Tribute		The Karate Kid ** (1984, Action)	Ralph Macchio, Noriyuki "Pat" Morita.		
	619	525	49 TROP	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld
	600	564	50 HGTV	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes on Homes	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Pure Design
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Encounters	In Dreams	Psychic Inv.	Encounters	Judging Amy	Commander
cable variety	269	350	93 APTN	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay (N)	Rez Rides	Fish Out of	Mixed Blessing	First Nation	Rabbit Fall (N)
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Officina Italian	Qui si Parla	In Germany	Euromaxx
	571	581	100 MMM	Popaganda		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Party of Five	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	Lyrics!	Party of Five
	570	580	101 MM	So You Think You Can Dance Canada				MuchTopTens	Pimp My Ride	disBand	Technical Diff.
	581	566	102 MTV	Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		A Double Shot of Love		MTV Live	After	Dance Life	Dance Life

critics'corner

Christmas at the Concert Hall

Yes, there's an awful lot of holiday music on the tube, and you probably can't catch 'em all. But this new special is one worth checking out, as it's got a nice variety of artists, including Holly Cole, Ed Robertson, Hawksley Workman and Serena Ryder, performing seasonal favorites from this charming new Bravo! venue. 8 PM on BRAVO



Barenaked for the Holidays

No, nobody is getting naked in this special. A repeat holiday favorite, the band Barenaked Ladies performs songs from its CD of holiday tunes. Numbers include original Christmas songs, skewed versions of traditional ones and a few of the group's standards. 7 PM on BRAVO

NCIS

Ducky must be feeling like the Jessica Fletcher of the NCIS team. Like the "Murder, She Wrote" heroine who kept losing friends to murder, he's had one assistant incapacitated by a gunshot, and now his current right-hand man, Jimmy Palmer, has become the target of a killer. Gibbs and the team scramble to solve the case and save their friend in "About Face." 8 PM on CICT: 9 PM on KREM



Jackass star Steve-o has been tapped as the next celebrity to join the cast of the hit TV show Dancing With The Stars, according to reports. **IMDB.COM**

## Celebrity Buzz

### Lohan's pricey leggings a hit

**CLOTHING** Actress Lindsay Lohan has managed to defy the global economic downturn — her new line of leggings have sold out in boutiques across the world, **imdb.com** reports.

The products from her 6126 collection range in price from \$44 to \$132 US, have become bestsellers.

The leggings come in 35 colours and patterns and are also said to have scored record sales in U.S. stores including Henri Bendel, Nordstrom, Intermix and Lisa Kline.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



### Dane rescues injured pooch

**PEOPLE** Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane nursed an injured chihuahua back to health when the little dog's guardian tossed her from a moving car, **imdb.com** reports.

The pooch suffered a broken leg and was limping around L.A.'s Larchmont shopping district when Dane spotted it.

"The dog's fine. It's name is Nelly. My wife thought I was the sweetest guy in the world for taking that dog, until I told her to take care of the dog."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Allen renounces party-girl ways

**PEOPLE** Don't expect one-time party girl Lily Allen to stumble out of a club anytime soon, **People.com** reports.

"I've become a character in a comic ... and that character is always drunk! I wish my comic character wasn't that," the singer told the U.K.'s Observer Music Monthly.

Allen claims she's been off alcohol "since 22 September," and doesn't plan on indulging again — at least for now.

"I have no intention of taking drugs again at the moment," she said.

"But I can't say 'Never again,' because I don't know where I'll be in 10 years' time. And I will definitely drink in the future, just not for awhile."

Gearing up for the release of her second studio album It's Not Me, It's You, the 23-year-old continues to battle insecurities with her weight and appearance.



"My mum always told me, 'You're beautiful, you're my beautiful little girl,' and then suddenly I wasn't," she said. "I read all the stuff that people were writing about me and I started to get a different view. I mean, I never thought I was supermodel or anything, but I didn't think I was quite as unattractive as people were saying!"

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Money woes may have ruined union

**BREAKUP** Actress Jodie Sweetin's marriage to Cody Herpin broke down following the near foreclosure of their home and a range of money woes, according to U.S. reports.

The former Full House star, 26, filed for legal separation from Herpin, 31, in November, just seven months after giving birth to the couple's first child, **imdb.com** reports.

In court documents, obtained by **People.com**, Sweetin blames her estranged

husband's lack of employment as the main factor behind their relationship troubles.

"Our house is in foreclosure, our water has been shut off twice. Currently, all of our other utilities are overdue," Sweetin states. "(Herpin) kept finding one excuse after another for his failure to even attempt to find employment."

According to **People.com**, Sweetin also claims the couple were surviving from residuals from Full House re-runs and help from her parents.

Sweetin has filed for joint custody of their baby daughter Zoie. A hearing for the case is set for Feb. 9.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



### Aniston proves teacher wrong

**CAREER** Jennifer Aniston partly owes her success to a harsh teacher who insisted she'd never make it as an actress, **imdb.com** reports.

The former Friends star was ridiculed and slated by the coach during her school days, and set out to prove him wrong.

"I was in the High School of Performing Arts and my acting coach told me that I was a disgrace to the Moscow Theatre," Aniston says. "I was determined to prove him wrong and do good work."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Kate dismisses photo op qualms

**PEOPLE** Kate Winslet balked at the idea of stripping off for a new Vanity Fair photo shoot until she realized photographer Steven Meisel, the man behind the shots in Madonna's Sex book, would be behind the lens, **imdb.com** reports.

The actress had no idea she'd be baring all until magazine bosses hit her with the concept on the day of the shoot.

Winslet's reservations quickly disappeared as she reminded herself what a great opportunity she was being given.

"I didn't go into that shoot knowing the concept ... but when you're asked to be on the cover of Vanity Fair and photographed

by Steven Meisel, it's a wonderful thing to experience," she says. "It's a fantastic opportunity just to be able to have that memory in your lifetime ... I thought, 'Yeah, dammit, I am; I'm 33, I've had two kids, Steven Meisel is taking pictures of me naked. This is never gonna happen again!' I transported myself 30 years on and I wanted to be able to say, 'Yeah, I did that.' That was one of those crazy, wonderful things and I'm really happy to have that memory. I have the prints from the shoot that Steven gave me at the end of the day that were taken out of the camera and were blown up."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



### Hubby wants \$1.46M from Amy?

**BREAKUP** The husband of singer Amy Winehouse is reportedly demanding a \$1.46-million US payoff to keep quiet about their marriage, **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

Blake Fielder-Civil vowed last month to split from Winehouse to help her win her alleged struggle with drugs. But according to a British tabloid, he has now demanded cash from the singer's manager and threatened to write a tell-all book about his relationship with Winehouse if he isn't paid.

"He's so two-faced. He just wants a payoff."

Money's his driving force," a source tells Britain's News of the World.

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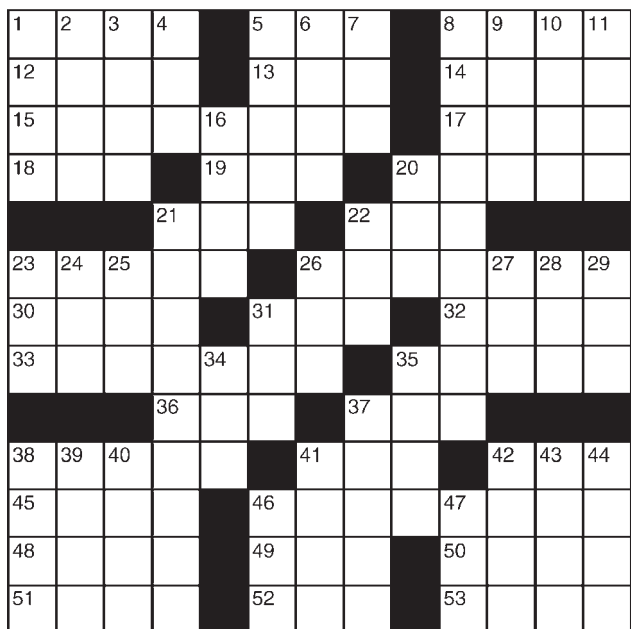
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## Take Five



### Crossword across

- |                              |                                |                        |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Group of actors            | 21 Toward the stern            | neckwear               |
| 5 Where Goldilocks was found | 22 Purchase                    | 42 Ring decision       |
| 8 Tracy or Cheney            | 23 Popeye's burger-eating chum | 45 Lira replacer       |
| 12 Leer at                   | 26 Small car                   | 46 Backyard structure  |
| 13 “— not choose to run”     | 30 State                       | 48 Building-block name |
| 14 Inactive                  | 31 Candle matter               | 49 A billion years     |
| 15 “Silent Cal”              | 32 Smell                       | 50 Pay attention       |
| 17 Peruse                    | 33 Dweller                     | 51 Pedestal occupant   |
| 18 Birthday card info        | 35 Harrelson of “Cheers”       | 52 Poehler or Yasbeck  |
| 19 Palin portray-er on “SNL” | 36 Cover                       | 53 Congers, e.g.       |
| 20 Goes nowhere              | 37 Crony                       |                        |
|                              | 38 Air current                 |                        |
|                              | 41 Wahine's                    |                        |

### Crossword down

- |                       |                          |                           |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Caesar's TV co-star | 21 Prankster's cry       | favorite                  |
| 2 Enthusiastic, plus  | 22 Carton                | 38 Sandwich shop          |
| 3 — gin fizz          | 23 Bankroll              | 39 Regretted              |
| 4 Aviv lead-in        | 24 “— Got a Secret”      | 40 Jason's ship           |
| 5 Lavatory fixture    | 25 Chaps                 | 41 Appear ominously       |
| 6 Nervous             | 26 Drop from the payroll | 42 Quaker's address       |
| 7 Fawn's mama         | 27 Big bother            | 43 Carina                 |
| 8 Cheating            | 28 Massachusetts cape    | 44 Probability            |
| 9 Notion              | 29 Take a whack at       | 46 Afternoon get-together |
| 10 Sculpture medium   | 31 Marry                 | 47 That woman             |
| 11 Sneakers brand     | 34 Acne evidence         |                           |
| 16 Dubious            | 35 Banshee's call        |                           |
| 20 Total              | 37 Garden                |                           |

### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



5	4	7	9	2	1	6	8	3
8	3	6	7	4	5	1	9	2
2	1	9	3	8	6	5	4	7
1	8	2	5	6	7	9	3	4
4	6	3	1	9	8	2	7	5
7	9	5	4	3	2	8	1	6
6	5	4	8	1	3	7	2	9
9	2	8	6	7	4	3	5	1
3	7	1	2	5	9	4	6	8

Find today's answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

<b>SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:</b>	17-21 min .....	Smart
Under 13 min .....	21-25 min .....	Not bad
13-17 min .....	25+ min .....	Keep practising

### Metro Recipe of the Day



#### Lamb Racks with Garlic And Rosemary

##### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 lamb racks (with 3 cutlets per rack)
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 2 long sprigs of fresh rosemary
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) honey
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) grainy mustard
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) mint sauce

##### METHOD:

- Preheat the oven to 400°F (200°C). Trim excess fat from lamb racks. Cut small slits in top of lamb with a small, sharp knife. Insert slices of garlic and small pieces of rosemary into slits. Sit lamb on a plate.
- Whisk together honey, grainy mustard and mint sauce, and brush over lamb racks. Marinate for 20 minutes in a cool place.
- Put lamb racks into a bak-

ing dish and spoon on sauce that may be left on plate. Bake for 20 minutes for medium-rare, or until cooked to your liking, basting a couple of times during cooking with honey-mustard mixture. 4. Remove from oven and let stand, covered, in a warm place for 10 minutes to allow juices to be absorbed back into meat. Either cut lamb into individual cutlets or leave rack intact and serve as is.

**SERVES 4**

[rd.ca](http://rd.ca)

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



## Horoscopes

### AVATAR VENUS

**ARIES**  
**MARCH 21-APRIL 20**  
 A lively person makes headway with a sad guy. There'll be much ado about nothing. Euphoria figures prominently in your plans.



**TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21-MAY 21**  
 Your thrill-seeking ways will be discussed. Disturbing feelings will cause distress. A friend relies on your sensible advice.



**GEMINI**  
**MAY 22-JUNE 21**  
 Avoid spending too much time seeking good luck. Relationship issues will be cleared up. An improvement causes second thoughts.



**CANCER**  
**JUNE 22-JULY 22**  
 A lively friend's emotions should be investigated. The least said about a problem, the better. Gossip is overheard by a busybody.



**LEO**  
**JULY 23-AUG 23**  
 A relationship improves after someone gets his first choice. Desperate measures will be taken. Chatter about your objectives comes up.



**VIRGO**  
**AUG 24-SEPT 22**  
 Time passes too quickly when you're arguing. Someone will agonize over forgiveness. Defensive strategies will be mad-dening.



**LIBRA**  
**SEPT 23-OCT 23**  
 Protect children from hypocritical behaviour. You will have a few hours of hopefulness. Prepare for an unconventional gift.



**SCORPIO**  
**OCT 24-NOV 22**  
 A crisis is the foundation of future opportunities. Someone will have mechanical problems. A senior will interfere with an appointment.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOV 23-DEC 21**  
 A desired object will seem flawed. Unleash The Force on a second-rate bore. Be cool when you're correct about an intolerant person.



**CAPRICORN**  
**DEC 22-JAN 20**  
 An insomniac will reveal too much. Prepare to investigate a death for its relevance. Expect to get a surprising message.



**AQUARIUS**  
**JAN 21-FEB 18**  
 You'll be on top of the world. A certain situation will help to pay your bills. A dispute will be erased by an affable associate.



**PISCES**  
**FEB 19-MARCH 20**  
 A dream about the news will come true. A rebellion against routine activity occurs. A peacemaker's persona won't be comforting.



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